

APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES PATENT

TITLE OF INVENTION

PROTECTIVE DUST JACKET COVER AND METHOD OF USE

INVENTORS:

TIMOTHY ELWELL



Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110-2699
Telephone (617) 439-2000
Facsimile (617) 973-9748

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: **EV324847607US**
Atty. Dkt. No. 105381-2

PROTECTIVE DUST JACKET COVER AND METHOD OF USE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[001] The invention relates to methods and devices for protecting dust jackets of books and other forms of literature or periodicals.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[002] Many books and other forms of printed matter use dust jackets to protect the book and to preserve its appearance while adding durability and artistic enhancement. However, dust jackets themselves are subject to wear and tear due repeated use and handling, as well as to environmental conditions. Consequently, protective book covers have been developed to provide some protection to books and their dust jackets.

[003] Protection for dust jackets and the books that they cover is particularly important for dealers, collectors, and custodians of rare books. For such individuals the protection of dust jackets is essential. That is, dust jackets must be maintained in pristine condition to preserve the value of a book. By way of example, the value of a rare first edition book in excellent condition can vary by many orders of magnitude depending on whether the dust jacket is present and in fine condition, or missing or otherwise damaged.

[004] One existing design for protective book covers is a paper or plastic sheet that covers the outer surface of the dust jacket. Examples of such covers are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,556,134 and 6,419,274. These patents describe transparent plastic covers for dust covers that provide some degree of protection for the books and dust jackets from repeated handling. While useful for libraries and other institutions that hold books that are frequently handled, these covers do not provide the level of protection for the dust jacket that is required to maintain the value of collector quality rare books.

[005] Accordingly, there is a need for a dust jacket cover that can adequately protect dust jackets from the effects of time and environmental conditions to preserve the value and quality of the dust jackets and the books on which they are placed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[006] The present invention provides a protective dust jacket cover and system in which the protective dust jacket cover is formed of a transparent outer sheet and a transparent inner sheet. The dust jacket cover is sealed on at least three sides and has an opening adjacent one side that communicates with a dust jacket-receiving space. A foldable flap is formed adjacent to the opening and extends from one of the outer sheet or the inner sheet beyond the other of the outer sheet or the inner sheet. The protective dust jacket cover further includes at least one adhesive layer formed on a portion of the surface of the foldable flap such that the foldable flap is adapted to be folded over the opening to seal the opening and to seal a dust jacket within a dust jacket-receiving space. Preferably, a selectively removable protective strip is disposed over the adhesive layer.

[007] The protective dust jacket cover of the invention protects dust jackets from damage that may be caused by repeated handling and use, pests, and environmental factors such as light and moisture.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[008] FIG. 1 is a front view of a protective dust jacket cover according to the present invention;

[009] FIG. 2 is a side, sectional view of the protective dust jacket cover of FIG. 1;

[010] FIG. 3 is a front view of the protective dust jacket cover of FIG. 1 having a dust jacket placed therein;

[011] FIG. 4 is a side, sectional view of the protective dust jacket cover of FIG. 3;

[012] FIG. 5 is a front view of the protective dust jacket cover of FIG. 3 in a partially sealed condition; and

[013] FIG. 6 is a front view of the dust jacket protective cover of FIG. 3 in a fully sealed condition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[014] The protective dust jacket cover of the present invention is advantageous because it preserves and protects dust jackets of books. The dust jacket is sealed within the protective dust jacket cover of the invention so that it is immune to damage from light, moisture, pests, and repeated use and handling. The flexible nature of the protective dust jacket cover of the invention enables the dust jacket to be functionally applied to a book when the dust jacket is sealed and protected within the protective cover.

[015] FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate that the protective dust jacket cover 10 of the invention is formed of sheets of material, preferably transparent, that contain a selectively sealable opening 12 through which a dust jacket 14 (FIG. 3) can be inserted. The protective dust jacket cover 10 has a front sheet (16) and a back sheet (18) which are sealed along at least three sides. In one embodiment, the first and second sides 20, 22 are joined by a heat seal 21, and the front and back sheets are integral and the bottom side is in the form of a fold separating the front and back

sheets 16, 18. Alternatively, the front and back sheets 16, 18 are separate and are heat sealed or otherwise permanently bonded together at the bottom end. One skilled in the art will appreciate that a variety of sealing or bonding techniques, including but not limited to heat sealing, can be used to join together separate sheets or portions of the same sheet.

[016] An opening 12 is formed in or adjacent to one of the front and back sheets 16, 18. For purposes of illustration, FIG. 1 shows the opening 12 formed in front sheet 16. The opening 12 is sufficiently sized to enable a dust jacket to pass therethrough and into a dust jacket receiving space defined by the front and back sheets 16, 18. Adjacent to and above the opening 12 is a first adhesive strip 26 that is covered by a selectively removable protective strip 28. In addition, a portion of either the front or back sheets 16, 18 which forms a foldable flap 30, is adjacent to and above the first adhesive strip.

[017] A person skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the opening can be constructed in a number of ways and the illustrative protective dust jacket cover described herein merely provides a single embodiment. In one embodiment the opening can be formed width-wise (as shown in FIG. 1) across the front sheet at a point between the top and bottom of the front sheet. In this embodiment, the front and back sheets are joined together at a top side of the protective dust jacket cover by heat sealing. Alternatively, the opening can be formed as a result of the front sheet being shorter than the back sheet. In this embodiment, the opening is formed adjacent to the top of the front sheet and the foldable flap is formed as an extension of the back sheet with the adhesive strips formed on either side of the back sheet. A person skilled in the art will understand other variations, including a length-wise opening, can also be utilized.

[018] As illustrated in FIG. 2, a second adhesive strip 32 is formed opposite the first adhesive strip 26. The second adhesive strip is also covered by a selectively removable protective strip 28. The second adhesive strip is useful to provide a seal of added security, or to enable the size of the protective dust jacket cover to be adjusted, as discussed below.

[019] FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate the protective dust jacket cover of FIGS. 1 and 2 in the unsealed condition, having a dust jacket 14 disposed therein. A person skilled in the art will

appreciate that the dust jacket can be inserted into the protective dust jacket cover in a variety of ways without damaging the dust jacket.

[020] FIGS. 5 and 6 sequentially illustrate an exemplary technique for folding the protective dust jacket cover and sealing a dust jacket therein. As noted above, FIG. 3 illustrates a dust jacket disposed within the protective dust jacket cover with the protective dust jacket cover in the unsealed condition. As a first step in the sealing process, shown in FIG. 5, the protective strip 28 is removed from the first adhesive strip 26 and the foldable flap 30 is folded over and beyond the opening 12. In the illustrated embodiment, this folding action causes the first adhesive strip 26 to contact and seal upon front sheet 16. Optionally, another fold can be effected to further seal the protective dust jacket cover and also to reduce the height of the protective dust jacket cover. In this embodiment, second adhesive strip 32 (if present) is exposed by removing protective strip 28 and a desired amount of the top portion 34 is again folded over to seal upon the second adhesive strip 32 to form a second fold 36. The fully sealed protective dust jacket cover is shown in FIG. 6.

[021] One skilled in the art will appreciate that the protective dust jacket cover can be sealed by a variety of alternative techniques. It is, however, important to fully enclose the dust jacket within the protective dust jacket cover and to seal the protective dust jacket cover from moisture and other environmental factors.

[022] The protective dust jacket cover can be made from a variety of materials. Preferably, the cover is made from a flexible polymeric material. In one embodiment, the cover is a flexible polymeric sheet that is impermeable to moisture and air. In another embodiment, the flexible polymer is impervious to ultraviolet light and infrared light.

[023] Exemplary materials from which the protective dust jacket cover can be made include polymers that can be extruded as flexible sheets. An exemplary class of polymers is polyolefins, with oriented polypropylene being particularly useful.

[024] The cover may be formed in a variety of thicknesses. In an exemplary embodiment, the thickness is in the range of about 1 to 1.4 mils, and most preferably about 1.2 mils.